

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00498 070633Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 /092 W
-----031756 080229Z /62

R 061500Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 838
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PAIRS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

CONFIDENTIAL DJIBOUTI 498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINS, DJ
SUBJ: PRESIDENT AMNESTIES ARMS SMUGGLERS; LOCAL PAPER GIVES
ANOTHER MESSAGE

1. IN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO 5-6 APRIL,
PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED GAVE AMNESTY TO VARIOUS PEOPLE ARRESTED
IN NORTH OF COUNTRY IN OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1977 IN CONNECTION
WITH ARMS CACHES. OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO PLACATE THE EVER-
RESTIVE AFARS, THE IMPACT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS BLUNTED BY
ERROR OF EDITOR LOCAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "LE REVEIL," WHO
INTERPRETED ANNOUNCEMENT TO MEAN RELEASE OF ACCUSED ASSASSINS IN
PALMIER EN ZINC BOMBING INCIDENT.

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2. IT IS UNDERSTOOD OVAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE WILL BE OBLIGED
TO GO ON LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION THIS EVENING TO EXPLAIN
THAT AMNESTY IS FOR ARMS SMUGGLERS AND ACCOMPLICES AND NOT
THOSE ACCUSED IN DECEMBER 1977 BAR BOMBING.

3. THIS IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF INFORMATION SYSTEM. THERE IS NO ONE IN GOVERNMENT TO WHOM A JOURNALIST MAY CALL TO CHECK INFORMATION VALIDITY. PRESS RELEASES APPEAR ALMOST MIRACULOUSLY FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE PRESS ROOM. THE PRESIDENT USUALLY DOES NOT LET HIS CABINET KNOW COLLECTIVELY ANY MATTER OF IMPORTANCE, WITH RESULT THAT TODAY'S SURPRISING PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT CAUGHT SEVERAL MINISTERS COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE. NOMINAL CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS OFFICE IS NOW IN THE U.S. ON LEADER GRANT. WE HOPE THAT HE BECOMES ACQUAINTED WITH MODERN PRESS OFFICE TECHNIQUES.

CLARKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: AMNESTY, ARMS SMUGGLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: PDEV, PINS, DJ
To: STATE
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